श्री मोती लाल वोरा: सभापति जी, मैंने पूछा है कि अभी किस राज्य पर ज्यादा ऋण बकाया है, जिसकी आपकी योजना के अंतर्गत अदला-बदली नहीं हो सकी है।

श्री जसवंत सिंह: सभापति जी, अगर आप मुझे इजाजत दें तो मैं सभी राज्यों के ऋण पढ़कर सुना दूं।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: मैंने एक राज्य के बारे में पूछा है कि किस राज्य का सबसे ज्यादा बकाया है। आपके पास एक-दो राज्यों का होगा। माननीय मंत्री जी विवरण लाए होंगे।

श्री सभापति: पूरी लिस्ट है।

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: मैं पूरी लिस्ट या हर राज्य के बारे में नहीं पूछ रहा हूं, केवल एक राज्य के बारे में पूछ रहा हूं कि अभी तक किस राज्य पर अदला-बदली योजना का सर्वाधिक ऋण बाकी है, जिस राज्य ने इसका लाभ नहीं उठाया है।

श्री जसवंत सिंह: सभी राज्य लाभ उठा रहे हैं, हर राज्य ने लाभ उठाया है। अगर राज्यों के ऋण की स्थिति के बारे में माननीय सदस्य वास्तव में जानना चाहते हैं इसे हम आप तक पहुंचा देंगे।

श्री ललितभाई मेहता: सभापति जी, राज्यों के बजट का सोलह प्रतिशत ब्याज का भुगतान अभी तक होता रहा था, माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करें कि इस अदला-बदली योजना के कारण राज्यों पर जो ब्याज का बोझ है क्या वह कम होने जा रहा है? केन्द्र सरकार के बजट के ब्याज का भुगतान इकतीस प्रतिशत होता रहा है। राज्यों द्वारा जो विकास का खर्च हो रहा है वह केन्द्र सरकार के विकास के खर्च से लगभग दुगुना हो रहा है। ऐसा क्यों है? क्या कारण है केंद्र सरकार के विकास का खर्च कम हो रहा है, और राज्यों को विकास के खर्च के लिए कितनी अधिक राशि उपलब्ध हो पाएगी?

श्री जसवंत सिंह: सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न इससे जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है। योजना आयोग, राज्यों की आर्थिक स्थिति आदि तथा इसमें अन्य कई पहलू हैं। माननीय सदस्य दूसरे प्रश्न को पूछें।

Management of Kolkata Stock Exchange

*202. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed deficiencies in the management of Kolkata Stock Exchange;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to streamline the working of the Exchange; and

(c) what steps SEBI is taking to ensure normal working of stock Exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) SEBI has superceded the Committee of Calcutta Stock Exchange on December 4, 2003 for a period of one year and appointed Shri Tushar Kanti Das, IAS (retd.) as administrator of the exchange to exercise and perform all the powers and duties of the Committee.

(c) In order to remove operational, market and systemic risks SEBI has taken following major steps to ensure normal working of the stock exchanges.

(1) Issued orders in January 2002 specifying that no broker member of the stock exchanges shall be an office bearer of an exchange *i.e.* hold the positio of President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc.

(2) Advised the exchanges to have time bound arbitration proceedings.

(3) Exchanges have been advised to submit a scheme of corporatisation and demutulization. To facilitate the process, a Bill to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 has been introduced in the Parliament on August 19, 2003 and is presently being examined by the Standing Committee on Finance.

(4) Advised the stock exchanges that no broker director shall be authorized to sign any cheques or operate any bank accounts on behalf of the stock exchange.

(5) Issued model bye-laws, in October, 2003, which would be applicable to all exchanges.

(6) Introduced shorter settlement cycles.

(7) Started holding weekly surveillance meetings with stock exchanges and depositories.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir my question is whether the Government have noticed deficiencies in the management of Kolkata stock Exchange. For this, the answer is yes. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the deficiencies are noticed and what are its effects on the functioning of the Stock Exchange.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the reply has already been provided to the hon. Member. If the hon. Member would recollect, it is in the year 2001 that a great many irregularities occurred in the Calcutta Stock Exchange. I won't go into the names. And because of those irregularities, SEBI came into being in 2003, in February. On account of an inspection by SEBI, these irregularities were detected. Thereafter, we alerted the State Government of West Bengal. We have appointed, as the reply provides, an Officer on Special Duty to look after the Calcutta Stock Exchange. A show-Cause Notice has been issued for the irregularities, and in the month of December, this year, the Calcutta Stock Exchange has been superseded, under Section 11 of the SCR Act. With that supersession, the appointment of OSD has resulted in normal trading continuing in the Calcutta Stock Exchange.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether responsibility has been fixed on any person or any agent for indulging in irregularities in the management of Calcutta Stock Exchange and what action has been taken against the persons who are held responsible for these irregularities.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it is a part of the activity that has already taken place. I have indicated about that. I would request the hon. Member not to persist in asking about my naming of an individual etc. We are in the process of sorting it out.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I would not like to ask any individual points. I would like to know only one point, in general, from the hon. Minister. You have noticed the deficiencies sometime in 2001. Naturally, it will take some time to take action. But the appointment of the OSD was done in December 2003. I think the SEBI took an unusually little longer time. So, I would like to know whether certain institutional arrangements could be made so that this type of time lag between noticing the deficiencies and inefficiencies and taking corrective measures can be reduced.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I think the hon. Member is exactly right. I share that sentiment totally. But, if I may remind the hon. Member, the activities of the Kolkata Stock Exchange is also featured in the investigation by the Joint Parliamentary Committee at a fair length. I don't want to go into the various unsavoury details. It is not a happy episode that had occurred. If the hon. Member recollects, certain investments were made by the earlier regime in the Unit Trust of India, placement of funds, etc. These are all extremely unworthy activities that took place. The Ministry is not at all happy with what han occurred and it is because of all that—yes, I admit—it took time from 2001 to 2003. But in the interregnum, of course, the Joint Parliamentary Committee was meeting and it would have been unwise of the Ministry to have preciptated action, unless anything has been established. But I would like to assure all Members that action has been taken and we are now committed to take action promptly.

I will take one more minute, Sir, to explain. We have endeavoured in the Ministry of Finance and it has been my effort, and I shared this thought with everybody that we have a tendency, after the fire has occurred, to fight the fire and then find out why the fire occurred rather than having a system which prevent fire. So, we are moving away from finding causes for the illness to not letting the illness occur at all. I don't say that we will succeed one hundred per cent. But I do think it is a step forward.

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: सर, जसवंत सिंह जी के जवाब देने के बाद कुछ बोलने को नहीं रह जाता है। I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that the problem at the Kolkata Stock Exchange is a historical problem. It was not for the first time that it occurred in 2001. It had happened earlier also. The situation was so bad that parallel stock exchange was operating out of Kolkata without any record or so. *Dabba* trading was also introduced at the end of 2002.

श्री सभापति: आप प्रश्न कर लीजिए।

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: The SEBI is the watchdog of the stock exchange. The SEBI should have taken into account all the factors to ensure that the stock exchanges work absolutely in line with the

guidelines. It is very unfortunate to know that none of the SEBI officials attended the meeting of the Kolkata Stock Exchange when they were appointed as Directors on the Board of the Kolkata Stock Exchange, when irregularities like this were noticed. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister what action has been taken against those erring officers who were involved, in a way, in sidelining the problems being faced by the Kolkata Stock Exchange and other stock exchanges in the country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, there are two broad things, what action has been taken against the officials for the negligence in the performance of their responsibility and the tangential reference to *dabba* trading. As the hon. Member knows, the Ministry of Finance has acted very aggressively against this rather curious trading, *dabba* trading. हमने डब्बे बंद करा दिए हैं। अब डब्बे गायब हैं। कोलकाता में और मुंबई में अब डब्बे नहीं हैं।

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mere suspension from the Board is not enough. You may suspend them ten times. It had been done in the past. It will again come up. They will find some other novel methods. The right thing would be to take very strict actions against those erring officers who neglect the problems like this.

श्री जसवंत सिंहः माननीय सदस्य के जो सुझाव हैं उन पर वित्त मंत्रालय पूरा विचार करेगा।

Recommendation of working group

*203. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations made by working group on Petroleum and Natural Gas submitted last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly the recommendations made for incorporation in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.